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ABSTRACT

One of a series of profiles prepared by the Cooperative Educational Abstracting Service, this brief outline provides basic background information on educational principles, system of administration, structure and organization, curricula, and teacher training in Botswana. Statistics provided by the Unesco Office of Statistics show the countries' population; enrollment at all levels, from preprimary to adult; number of teachers; population by age groups; public expenditure on education; educational indicators by subject (level enrollment ratios, maximum age specific enrollment ratio, enrollment in natural and applied sciences at the third level, public expenditure on education as a percentage of budget and of GNP, and the adult illiteracy rate). For a description on the general nature of the Country Education Profiles, and for a list of related documents see SO 005 686. (JMB)

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Country Education Profiles

Date of issue	Country
June 1972	BOTSWANA

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OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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General principles

The aim of the Botswana Government is to reduce the school entrance age to seven years by 1980 and to provide primary education free of charge to all schoolchildren in order to ensure mastry of the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic in line with national needs and aspirations. Major laws are the Botswana Teaching Service Law 1964 (admission to teaching service, classification, salary, transfers of teachers), and the Education Law 1966 (administration, registration and control of schools).

System of administration

Overall responsibility for primary, secondary and vocational education lies with the Ministry of Education. Agricultural education is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Botswana is divided into ten educational circuits. Each has an education officer or an assistant education officer who are responsible for inspecting schools and advising District Councils. The District and Town Councils, as elected local authorities, have statutory responsibilities in the sphere of education, mainly the construction and maintenance of primary schools and the payment of two-thirds of teachers' salaries. The Central Government grant to local authorities for primary education is made through the Ministry of Local Government, which also sponsors literacy campaigns and self-help projects of different kinds.

Structure and organization

The education system covers: primary and secondary general education, vocational and technical education, agricultural education and teacher training. The University so far located in Lesotho is being decentralized. In July 1971, first-year students enrolled in Gaborone, and in July 1972, second-year students enrolled. The process will go on till the University is fully established in all the agreed faculties in Botswana. At the moment, there is no intention of breaking away from the parent campus in Lesotho.

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Primary education is not compulsory. The course lasts seven years and minimal fees, which are uniform throughout the country, are charged. The age of entry is six years; the upper age limit at which children may be admitted is eight years. Secondary education is non-compulsory and selective, entry depending on the number of places available. In practice it is the pupils obtaining A and B grade passes at the primary school leaving examination who are selected. Fees are charged at both government and private schools. Secondary education is academic in character with a view to preparing students for further education, but the curriculum is being increasingly diversified to include practical subjects. The course lasts five years and leads to the Cambridge General Certificate of Education "O" level examination. Successful completion of the first three years leads to a Junior Certificate of Education. Students qualify for entry to the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland if they obtain the Cambridge General Certificate of Education at "O" level with a first- or second-class pass. They also have the alternative of undertaking the General Certificate of Education at "A" level abroad.

The Botswana Training Centre is the only institution offering training for craftsmen (builders, carpenters, electricians and mechanics). Plans are now afoot to establish a vocational training centre in Gaborone. Agricultural education and training is provided at the Botswana Agricultural College, the Mahalapye Agricultural Training Centre and Denham Rural Training Centre.

The school year runs from January to November, while the fiscal year begins in April.

Teacher training

Primary teachers are trained at two government training colleges. A third college is engaged in the upgrading of untrained teachers. When this programme, is phased out, the college will also become a regular pre-service teacher training centre while retaining aspects of in-service training. The entrance requirements for the primary school teacher training course is three years of secondary education. There are no institutions providing training for secondary school teachers; the country participates to a limited extent in courses of this kind at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. It is hoped, however, that once key posts in the government are filled, a higher number of Cambridge school certificate holders will be attracted to a secondary school teaching career and enter

teacher training courses for this purpose. It is also hoped that the present low number of passes in the General Certificate of Education examination (244 in 1971) will rise to 557 by 1975, thus providing a sufficient number of candidates for secondary teacher training courses.

Bibliography

Unesco. *Botswana Educational Statistics: Report of mission by S. Mirville, January 1967 to January 1971.* Paris.

STATISTICS

BOTSWANA

(Source : Unesco Office of Statistics)

Estimated population 1970 ..... : 648 000
Area (Km2) ..... : 600 372
Inhabitants per Km2 ..... : 1

1. ENROLMENT

Level of education	1965	1969	1970
Pre-primary			
MF	...	...	...
F	...	...	...
First level			
MF	66 061	82 214	83 002
F	37 169	43 680	44 053
Second level			
MF	1 848	4 228	5 197
F	763	1 887	2 304
Third level			
MF	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Special education			
MF	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Adult education			
MF	600	...	...
F	275	...	...

2. TEACHERS

Level of education	1965	1969	1970
Pre-primary			
MF	...	...	...
F	...	...	...
First level			
MF	1 651	2 037	2 275
F	865	1 078	1 231
Second level			
MF	92	...	353
F	25	...	102
Third level			
MF	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Special education			
MF	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Adult education			
MF	40	...	...
F	-	...	...

3. POPULATION

In thousands

Population by age groups	1965		1970	
	Total	Female	Total	Female
Total population	560	288	622	319
0 - 4	94	48	105	53
5 - 14	140	71	156	80
15 - 19	57	29	63	32
20 - 24	49	25	55	28

4. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

Currency : S.A.Rand In thousands

Item	1965	1969	1970
Exchange rate in US $	1.40	1.40	1.40
Public expenditure on education			
Total	1 627	2 487	2 918
Recurring	1 397	2 227	2 452
Capital	230	260	466

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT

Subject	1965	1969	1970
Level enrolment ratios			
First and second levels combined (age group 7-18)	44	52	52
First level (age group 7-13)	69	78	78
Second level (age group 14-18)	3	7	8
Third level (age group 20-24)	-	-	-

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT
(Cont'd)

Subject	1961	1967	1969
Maximum age specific enrolment ratio			
a) attending first level (age..... 12)	42.2		
(age..... 8)		67.2	
(age..... 9)			71.3
b) attending second level (age..... 17)	1.1		
(age..... 16)		3.1	
(age..... 15)			4.8
(including general education only)			
Note : For ratios of all ages see Unesco Statistical Yearbook			

Subject	1965	1969	1970
Public expenditure on education			
as a % of Budget	10.1	13.2	...
as a % of GNP	4.4	...	...
Public and private expenditure on education as a % of GNP	4.5	...	...

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT
(Cont'd)

Subject	1946	1964
Adult illiteracy rate (1946) and percentage of adult population with no schooling (1964)		
(population 15 years and over (1946))		
(population 25 years and over (1964))		
Total	1/ 79.5	72.7
Male	...	74.0
Female	...	71.7

1/ African population only. Not including semi-literate persons.

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